

# Delta Science Program Brown Bag Series Presents

## Ecosystem Services Across Landscapes: Prioritizing Conservation and Assessing Trade-offs

Adrian I. Vogl, Ph.D.  
Natural Capital Project  
The Nature Conservancy

**Wednesday, May 23, 2012, 12 noon – 1 p.m.**  
**Cal EPA Building 2nd Floor: Training Room 2**  
**1001 “I” Street, Sacramento CA 95814**



Nature supports human health, livelihoods and economies in countless ways: ecosystems purify and regulate water supplies, store carbon to slow climate change, and provides foods, medicines and opportunities for spiritual and cultural experiences. Despite their importance, practical, credible information about these ecosystem services and their economic value is often lacking or inaccessible to decision-makers.

The Natural Capital Project has developed several models that enable decision-makers to assess the trade-offs associated with alternative policy options, and to identify areas where investment in ecosystem services can enhance both human development and the conservation of terrestrial, freshwater, and marine ecosystems.

Dr. Adrian Vogl will present two case studies from the Natural Capital Project (Project), places where these tools are used to inform decisions about planning and investments in natural capital. In the Sierra Nevada region, the Project highlighted conservation priorities by mapping various ecosystem services. In another recent application, the Project supported the identification and prioritization of areas for water fund development throughout Latin America. Water funds are a specialized conservation financing scheme to protect upstream habitat in order to improve the downstream ecosystem service benefits of clean, flowing water.